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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5012
INFO RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 4182
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 3124
RUEHNK/AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE 3335
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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PBTS](#) [MO](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN ROAD SHOW ON WESTERN SAHARA RESOLUTION
FANS OUT AROUND THE GLOBE

REF: A. SECSTATE 172735

[1](#)B. SECSTATE 173438

Classified By: Political counselor Craig Karp, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (SBU) Immediately following intensive meetings in DC (October 11-13) to discuss the government of Morocco's (GOM) autonomy plans for the Western Sahara (reftels A, B), the delegation headed to various capitals. The delegation went to Paris, where they were met by President Jacques Chirac. The fact of this visit and French support for Morocco was widely reported in the press. According to press and an October 20 meeting with MFA International Organizations Chief Nasser Bourita, Foreign Minister Benaissa, accompanied by Environment Minister Mohamed El Yazeghi, went on to Moscow where they met with FM Lavrov and NSC head Ivanov. Minister-Delegate Taieb Fassi Fihri, was dispatched to London at the end of the week with Mohamed Laenser, Minister of Agriculture. JED Chief and Palace intimate Mansuri went to Latin America, stopping in Peru and Argentina. Abass El Fassi, Minister and the Secretary-General of the Istiqlal political party and Ambassador to Geneva Loulichki went to Beijing; Nabil Benabdallah, the Minister of Communication, traveled to Ghana and the Democratic Congo, at the same, although he was not part of the DC delegation.

[1](#)2. (C) Bourita told Polcouns the messages carried by the delegations were different. The delegations were much more open with the U.S. France and the U.K., sharing Morocco's aspirations and difficulties in its search for a negotiated settlement. With the others, they were mostly in a defensive mode, attempting to stave off unfriendly amendments to the resolution, like insertion of a human rights mandate for MINURSO. The Russians, like most interlocutors, were mostly in a listening mode and looked to see how discussions unfolded in New York. Bourita specifically noted that Morocco appreciated the movement in the U.S.-tabled UNSCR draft of the mention of a negotiated solution from the preamble to an operative paragraph.

[1](#)2. (C) Comment: Using this international lobbying system is "business as usual" for the GOM. Throughout 2005 and the first part of 2006, members of the GOM traveled extensively throughout Central and South America and sub-Saharan Africa to garner support. The work of the delegations got easier by midweek with the tabling of the U.S. draft, but the goal of

staving off unfavorable amendments remains important for them. End Comment.

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